



15

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Yasushi TANAKA, et al.

Art Unit : 2621

Serial No. : 10/085,137

Examiner : Anand Shashikant RAO

Filing Date: March 1, 2002

Title : ENCODING CIRCUIT AND METHOD

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Customer Window
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
Randolph Building
401 Dulany St.
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 18, 2007, applicants hereby provisionally elect, with traverse, Species IV, Figures 10, 11 and 12, for initial examination in this application. Claims 5, 6, 9 and 12 read on the elected Species. No claim is generic to all of Species I-IV outlined in the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse the election requirement since all Species are sufficiently related that a thorough and complete search for Species IV should encompass a thorough and complete search for all Species I-IV. Thus, search and examination of all Species herein could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 which states that "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on its merits." This policy should apply in the present application to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

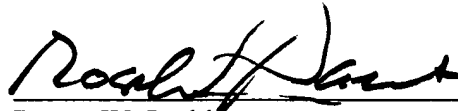
Applicant : Yasushi TANAKA, et al.
Serial No. : 10/085,137
Filed : March 1, 2002
Page : 2 of 2

For at least the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the election requirement and examination of all Species herein are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 20, 2007



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